

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 03170 281601Z

43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

----- 026387

R 281414Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3002

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3170

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPT CONFRONTS SARG AND PLO

SUMMARY. AS EXPECTED, SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS HAVE LOST NO TIME SAYING "I TOLD YOU SO" TO GOE FOLLOWING SUSPENSION OF KISSINGER MISSION. ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MARCH 24 WAS SCENE OF VICIOUS ATTACK BY QADDUMI AND KHADDAM ON GOE FOREIGN POLICY. SADAT AND FAHMY ARE TAKING BULL BY HORNS, TELLING PLO LEADERS AND KHADDAM JUST WHAT EGYPT THINKS OF THEIR OBSTRUCTIONISM. BOUMEDIENNE, NOW IN CAIRO, IS APPARENTLY IN ACCORD WITH SADAT, AND MAY BE PREPARING PLAY CONCILIATORY ROLE. END SUMMARY.

1. MOST DIFFICULT IMMEDIATE PROBLEM FACING GOE AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUSPENSION OF KISSINGER MISSION WAS TO DEAL WITH "I TOLD YOU SO" ATTITUDE WHICH GOE EXPECTED FROM PLO AND DAMASCUS. MOST IMMEDIATE HURDLE WAS ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL SESSION WHICH BEGAN MARCH 24.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03170 281601Z

WM WE UNDERSTAND FAHMY CAME UNDER VICIOUS ATTACK BY KHADDAM

AND QADDUMI DURING CLOSED ARAB LEAGUE MEETING MORNING MARCH 24, AND , ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS WE HAVE HEARD, FAHMY SUCCEEDED IN SILENCING BOTH OF THEM BY AGGRESSIVELY SPEAKING TO LACK OF SUPPORT PORVIDED BY PLO AND SARG FOR PRESIDENT SADAT'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF ALL ARABS. FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN BEFORE NEWS OF FAISAL'S ASSASSINATION REACHED CAIRO, KHADDAM HAD ARRANGED TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 25, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF PRESSING BUSINESS THERE.

3. ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING WHEN COUNCIL WILL RESUME AND IS EXPECTED TO SUGGEST COUNCIL RECONVENE SOMETIME DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS. FAISAL'S ASSASSINATION HAS GIVEN GOE SOME BREATHING SAPCE TO PREPARE DEFENSE AGAINST FURTHER ATTACKS ON SADAT'S ESPOUSAL OF SECRETARY'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND FAHMY BELIEVES HE ACQUITTED HIMSELF WITH CONSIDERABLE APLOMB AGAINST WHAT HE FELT WERE "GANGING UP" TACTICS OF PLO AND SARG.

4. ON OTHER IMPORTANT ITEM OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS ON COUNCIL'S AGENDA IS FIXING VENUE AND DATE FOR ARAB SUMMIT. RABAT CONFERENCE HAD SET JUNE 75 AS GENERAL DATE, LEAVING ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL TO DETERMINE EXACT DATE IN JUNE.

5. WITH REGARD TO PLO, SADAT IS APPARENTLY TAKING LEAD IN TELLING PLO LEADERSHIP EXACTLY WHAT HE THINKS OF THEIR OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME KEEPING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF HIS CONTACTS TO A MINIMUM. WE UNDERSTAND HE MET ALONE WITH ABU IYAD FOR TWO HOURS ON MARCH 25 AND ALSO MET ARAFAT IN PRESENCE OF FAHMY IN RIYADH. BOUMEDIENNE JOINED ARAFAT MEETING LATER. PICTURES WERE TAKEN OF SADAT AND ARAFAT ALONE AND SADAT AND ABU IYAD. THE PRESIDENCY HAS REFUSED TO RELEASE ANY OF THESE PICTURES EXCEPT FOR ONE SHOWING SADAT WITH BOHT BOUMEDIENNE AND ARAFAT.

6. COMMENT: BOUMEDIENNE REPORTEDLY CONSULTED WITH SADAT BOTH ON AIRCRAFT FROM RIYADH TO CAIRO AND ALSO HERE IN CAIRO MARCH 28. IT MAY BE THAT ALGERIANS ARE PREPARED TO PUT THEIR WEIGHT BEHIND SADAT TO RPEVENT FURTHER EROSION OF ARAB UNITY BY GRATUITOUS SYRIAN AND PALESTINAIAN ACCUSATIONS THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS TAKEN IN BOTH BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND BY NOTION OF STEP-BY-STEP  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 03170 281601Z

APPROACH. IN ANY CASE, EGYPTIANS ARE DETERMINED TO DO WHAT THEY CAN TO PERSUADE SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS THAT SADAT HAS DONE HIS BEST AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO HIS BEST FOR ALL ARABS, AND ALSO TO NIP IN THE BUD ANY INCIPIENT SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN POLITICAL AXIS DIRECTED AGAINST GOE FOREIGN POLICY LEADERSHIP AND SADAT PERSONALLY.

7 FOR DAMASCUS: BELIEVE ABOVE RESPONDS TO DAMASCUS 1154 (NOTAL).

EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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